LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

PROCEEDINGS

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 27, 1976

10:00 o'clock a.m.

DOYLE G. BERRY, Chairman.

Wild Life and Fisheries
Building
400 Royal Street, Room 102
New Orleans, Louisiana

Kathryn G. Chamberlin, Reporter.

Helen R. Dietrich, inc.

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PROCEEDINGS

Board of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was convened on Tuesday, January 27, 1976 at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in Room 102 of the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Doyle G. Berry, Chairman of the Commission, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

DOYLE G. BERRY, Chairman

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL, Vice Chairman

MARC DUPUY, JR., Member

JEAN LAPEYRE, Member

DONALD F. WILLE, Member

J. BURTON ANGELLE, Director.

A G E N D A

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT

JR.

1. Request for permit to remove sand and gravel from the Mississippi River between Mile 406.0 and Mile 417.0 along the Togo Island Bar and adjacent to land owned by the applicant by CHARLES H. LAWRENCE,

(31)

(6) 2. Request for renewal of permit to remove sand and/or fill material from the Mississippi River at approximately 87.9 Miles AHP dated January 26, 1976, by L. MURPHY TRUCKING SERVICE, INC. MR. HARRY SCHAFER (7) Close two areas to oyster harvesting in 3. Plaquemines Parish. MR. JOE HERRING (11)Discussion of turkey season. MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER (19)5. Consideration of lease on Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge by State Mineral Board. (22)Fishing restrictions on Rockefeller. 6. OTHER BUSINESS (4) Approval of minutes of previous Board meeting. Invitation to Louisiana Wildlife Federation (28)Convention. (30)Set February meeting date. Authorization for Commission members to attend (30)Second Waterfowl Symposium, February 13-

Authorization to attend Southeastern States

Game and Fish Commissioners meeting,

15, 1976, in St. Louis.

to be held in Atlanta, Georgia on February 27 and 28, 1976.

Adjournment.

(32)

CHAIRMAN DOYLE G. BERRY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. The meeting will now come to order. We are glad to see Mr. Braud with us this morning from the Wildlife Federation and also another former Board member, Mr. Buquet.

The first item this morning is the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.

MR. DUPUY: I so move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy and seconded by Mr. Wille. All opposed, say aye.

(No response)

Carried.

Dr. St. Amant.

DR. LYLE S. ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have two items this morning. The first one is a request for a permit to remove sand and gravel from the Mississippi River between Mile 406.0 and Mile 417, along the Togo Island Bar and adjacent to land owned by the applicant, Mr. Charles H. Lawrence, Jr.

Mr. Lawrence had a permit in this area for a number of years but he was unable to exercise

it because of the high river, and the permit expired. He is asking to renew it. I find that he has met all the requirements of the Commission and would recommend that we issue this permit.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard Dr. St. Amant's recommendation.

MR. DUPUY: I will so move.

MR. LAPEYRE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Lapeyre. All in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries
Commission does hereby grant permission to CHARLES H. LAWRENCE, JR. to
remove sand and gravel from the
Mississippi River between Mile 406.0

and Mile 417.0 AHP, along the Togo
Island Bar and adjacent to land
owned by the applicant, for a period
of one year from January 27, 1976 to
January 27, 1977.

DR. ST. AMANT: The second one is a request for renewal of an existing permit to remove sand and/or fill material from the Mississippi River at approximately Mile 87.9 to 88.5 AHP by the L. Murphy Trucking Service, Inc. This permit has been in effect and it is satisfactorily operated. We would recommend that it be renewed as they meet all the requirements of the Commission and in both of these permits they will be for a period of one year at five cents per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard Dr. St. Amant's recommendation.

MR. LAPEYRE: I so move.

MR. DUPUY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Lapeyre,

seconded by Mr. Dupuy. Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the

Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries

Commission does hereby grant permission to the L. MURPHY TRUCKING SERVICE,

INC. to remove sand and/or fill material

from the Mississippi River at approximately 87.9 to 88.5 Miles AHP for a

period of one year from January 27, 1976

to January 27, 1977, at a royalty rate

of five cents per cubic yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Max Summers I believe is taking Mr. Schafer's place this morning.

MR. SUMMERS: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Commission, we have one item of business. It is a request by the Plaquemines Parish Council to close two areas of oyster fishing east of the Mississippi River because they are going to open their fresh water syphons at two locations and it will be commenced about February 15 and concluded at the end of March.

We have a letter from the Board of Health indicating that they have no objection provided we concur in this procedure. In addition the Parish will post this area and also provide air and boat patrols. This type of operation has been in existence for the past six or seven years and is more or less routine. We would recommend that the Commission go along with this action.

THE CHAIRMAN: Max, isn't this something we have been doing in years gone by and do every year, a routine thing really?

MR. SUMMERS: This is more or less routine, yes, sir, and it has been in existence now for the past six or seven years.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. DUPUY: I will second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. Any objections?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(The full text of the

resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, salt water intrusion in marshes that are oyster seed, water-fowl and furbearer producing areas has resulted in increased snail predation with a reduced seed oyster production and decreased usage by other wildlife resources, and

WHEREAS, the Plaquemines

Parish Commission Council has obligated

itself to do the following:

- 1. To mark the affected areas to be closed with signs at least 24 square inches reading "No Oyster Fishing Until Notified. Area West Closed. Boat-Air Patrol, Syphons Running."
- To obtain the consent for closure of the area from the affected oyster bottom lessees.
- 3. To maintain a boat and helicopter patrol to enforce the prohibition

of no oyster fishing until the areas are clear as determined by the State Board of Health, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has received a request from the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council, dated January 9, 1976, to begin operating the Parish Fresh Water Syphons at lower Belair, or White Ditch, east of the river in the Parish of Plaquemines, beginning February 15, 1976;

that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at its regular monthly meeting, held on Tuesday, January 27, 1976, does hereby temporarily close the oyster fishing area described as follows: that the area east of the river, included within 89° 46' Longitude West and Westward in Plaquemines Parish, as shown on plat of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission prepared by its Oyster

Division, dated April 16, 1970, and copy of which is on file with said Commission and in the office of the Secretary of the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council. Said fresh water syphons are being opened during higher river stages for the purpose of introducing fresh water into this oyster growing area until such time as the State Board of Health approves reopening these areas for oyster fishing, such action being contingent upon the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council meetings its responsibilities as included in this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be referred to the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council, the State Board of Health and the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and Growers Association.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Herring. Mr. Herring,
I will tell you one thing, I think it is a dangerous

thing to discuss this turkey season with Mr.

Thompson not here, or maybe it is a safe thing,

I don't know.

MR. HERRING: We will make it sweet and short so there won't be much here.

MR. LUTTRELL: It won't be bad, Joe, because the other side is not here, either.

MR. HERRING: Which is the other side?

MR. LUTTRELL: The riflemen.

THE CHAIRMAN: I like the way you asked that question when you already had the answer, Joe.

MR. HERRING: You have to be prepared for something, so that is it.

Anyhow, last fall some people met with the Commission here, suggesting some other areas to be recommended for turkey hunting. These had been planned next year but after that meeting the Commission directed us to check into these areas and we have with Districts I, II and III personnel. We have made some fairly extensive field checks on it and we feel like we can go ahead and recommend that these areas be opened.

Now prior to 1972 in these areas we had

on them here (indicating areas on map) with turkeys.

About 275 turkeys had been put in all this general area for stocking so it was adequately stocked.

This included parts of the Parishes of Claiborne,

Webster, Union, Lincoln, Bienville, Jackson, Winn and Ouachita. I said parts of those Parishes.

They had recommended three areas be opened, so we took in all of this so it would combine an area that was already open this year, will be open, in the lower part and upper part and their recommendation is in the center part, so this would fall in with the present season that we have, approved by the Commission prior to this when we were setting our regular hunting and fishing dates. These seasons in here would also coincide that were recommended for that block, which would be March 27 to April 25, 1976.

I will not read the description there
because it is fairly lengthy and going through
these highways but I have furnished a copy of this
description to the court recorder over there and
she has that and also I have furnished a description

of this area to the press, and I would like to recommend to the recorder there that these be entered into the minutes rather than reading all of them from this map here. Also, the press has copies.

So, with this I would like to recommend that the Commission approve the opening of this area.

MR. LUTTRELL: Joe, since I have always advocated more hunter opportunity in turkeys, I would like to be the person to move, and I so move that we increase the area, and I suggest we increase the area over the state as rapidly as it is feasible.

MR. WILLE: I will second that.

MR. LAPEYRE: How many turkeys will be taken as a result of this?

MR. HERRING: Off that area, probably just roughly 75 or 100. You don't have that many real good turkey hunters in that area. The people are just really developing turkey hunting. You have got some oldtime turkey hunters in the state that still kill their part but in this particular

area they are still developing people for turkey hunting in that area.

Incidentally, I would say too that this is a gobbler only season and with that you wouldn't have any chance of affecting your reproduction or your turkey population and we will still continue some trapping operations on some of these sites to move in hens and gobblers, so this would have no effect on our overall population.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. LUTTRELL: I move that we accept the recommendation.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Luttrell moves.

MR. DUPUY: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dupuy seconds it.

Any objections?

(No response)

So ordered.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, at one of the fall

meetings of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission interested turkey hunters met with the Commission to discuss and propose new turkey hunting areas in the north central portion of the State, and

WHEREAS, after a meeting with these interested parties the Commission assured them that additional field checks in the areas would be made and that the information would be brought back for further recommendations to the Commission on seasons, and

WHEREAS, these field checks have been made by personnel of Districts I. II and III, and

WHEREAS, the field personnel in these districts feel that we have an adequate turkey population for the opening of a season in 1976, and

WHEREAS, this area is described as: East of Highway 79 from Louisiana-Arkansas State Line south to Homer to

Louisiana Highway 9 to Athens, to Louisiana Highway 154 thence east of Louisiana Highway 154 from Athens to Interstate 20; then south of I-20 to junction of Louisiana Highway 7 at Minden; then east of Highway 7 from I-20 to Ringgold; then north and east of Highway 4 from Ringgold to Castor, then east of Highway 153 from Castor to junction of Highway 155; thence east and south of 155 from junction of 153 to Black Lake Bayou; thence east and north of Black Lake Bayou to Highway 9; west and north of Highway 9 from Black Lake to junction of 156 at Creston; north of 156 from Creston to junction of 167; east of 167 from junction of 156 to junction of Highway 34 at Winnfield; north and west of Highway 34 from Winnfield to junction of Louisiana Highway 499; north and west of 499 to junction of Louisiana Highway 4; north of Highway 4 to Louisiana Highway 557 at Vixen; west of Highway 557 to Louisiana Highway 34;

south and east of Highway 34 from 557 to Chatham; south of Highway 4 from Chatham to Louisiana Highway 146; south and west of Highway 146 from Highway 4 to junction of Highway 167 at Ruston; west of 167 from junction of 146 to Highway 151 at Dubach; north and west of Louisiana Highway 151 from Dubach to D'Arbonne Bayou, north and west of D'Arbonne Bayou and D'Arbonne Lake from Highway 151 to Corney Bayou; Union Parish south and west of Corney Bayou from D'Arbonne Lake to Louisiana Highway 550, north and west of Louisiana Highway 550 from Corney Bayou to the Arkansas State Except that portion of Union Parish Line. bounded on the east by Louisiana Highway 558, on the south by Louisiana Highway 15 and the west by U. S. Highway 167 which shall be closed to turkey hunting, and

WHEREAS, it is recommended that the dates for this area be 30 days, March 27 through April 25, 1976, and

WHEREAS, this area and dates

are recommended by the Chief of the Game Division,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission have accepted these recommendations from the Game Division for a 30-day turkey season, March 27 through April 25, 1976 in the area described.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Herring.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ensminger.

MR. ENSMINGER: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the Commission, I have got a request here from the State Mineral Board, requesting your approval for the Mineral Board to advertise for leasing a 360-acre tract of land on the western tip of Rockefeller.

This tract of land is a portion of a former lease that had been dropped by Anchute Corporation. They have now nominated a portion of this tract again for leasing. They drilled a deep venture on the original lease off of a board

road system. I would recommend that the Commission go ahead and approve the State Mineral Board receiving bids on this tract on March 10.

You might also want to appoint someone from the Mineral Committee to represent the Commission at that lease sale. Normally someone from the Commission does go to the sales in case there is any question comes up by the Mineral Board staff and Board at that time.

THE CHAIRMAN: What is that, about 320 acres?

MR. ENSMINGER: 360. Right on the very western extremity of the Refuge, on the beach.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have heard the recommendation.

MR. DUPUY: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Dupuy, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Any objections?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered. Mr. Director, I will get with you and decide who to send up to that meeting.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission received notice from the State Mineral Board of a request to lease 360 acres of property on the western tip of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, and

WHEREAS, examination of this request has been made and it has been found that a mineral lease can be awarded on this property without adversely affecting the wildlife management program of the area;

that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby authorize the State Mineral Board to solicit for bids on 360 acres of unleased property on the western tip of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish, and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that

the Director is hereby authorized to sign all documents pertaining to this matter.

MR. ENSMINGER: The next item I have for your consideration is a change in our regulations covering the use of Rockefeller Refuge by the general public.

Several years ago the Commission opened the Refuge up to sport fishing, sightseeing, photography and just general recreational use of the area. The deed of donation by which the Commission received the Refuge of course designated it as a wildlife sanctuary. Within the deed of donation, however, it did provide that sport fishing permits and sightseeing and photography permits be made available to the public to visit the area. Within this provision it was stated in there, you know, that this visiting would not disturb the area and disturb the wildlife utilizing it, so the Commission issues now permits for people to go onto the area during the summer months.

We have restricted the use of the area in the winter months to try and prohibit any

disturbance to wintering waterfowl, the primary function of the Refuge.

However, in the past few years we have had a tremendous increase in the number of people that are interested in wintertime fishing in the canals and natural bayous and what-have-you on the Refuge. We have reviewed this thing and after careful consideration feel that this would not create a nuisance to the wintering waterfowl on the area and with this in view we would like to make a recommendation to the Commission at this time that Rockefeller be opened for sport fishing year-round on the Refuge.

We have, as I say, some excellent recreational wintertime fishing in the area that is now being closed and the public is not being able to take advantage of it. We do have some access channels to the Refuge out into the Gulf of Mexico and they can fish along the beach and back up the natural bayous to the water control structures, but with a revision of this provision I think it would increase the recreational use of the area tremendously.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Will you make any exceptions to the impoundments?

MR. ENSMINGER: Burt, I would like to go ahead and open up the entire area at this time.

If it does become obvious that it is a problem, we could come back to the Commission and ask that the impoundments be closed in the future.

In the wintertime the impoundments are not attractive to the fishermen. We have a tremendous crawfish population on the area in the springtime but this is normally a March-April-May season so really I don't think there is anything in the impoundments that would be attractive to the public. But, as I say, if it does become obvious that it is a problem, we can come back and close this later, but by closing them I think it would increase the enforcement problems and efforts at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN: I would like to see some-body offer a motion approving this, subject to giving the Director authority to close the impoundments if in fact it does start creating a problem.

MR. LAPEYRE: I will so move.

MR. DUPUY: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Lapeyre, seconded by Mr. Dupuy. Any objections?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

MR. DUPUY: We know that it is a lot easier to open than to close and it may be more logical that you open only those parts that could be managed and not open the ponds.

MR. ENSMINGER: Well, Marc, with respect to that, we don't anticipate any problems really. Historically Rockefeller has been treated with a tremendous amount of respect by the local people down there. We have never had problems with hunting of waterfowl on the area in the twenty-some years that I have been with the Commission. The only poaching problem that really ever existed on the Refuge was alligator hunting. Of course, this was being conducted by poachers that were dyed-in-the-wool outlaws and they were trespassing on the Refuge. Waterfowl hunting on there is not a problem. Hunters have leases right up to the boundary line of the Refuge. They don't trespass

over onto the Refuge to hunt. They have fine waterfow hunting right adjacent.

As I say, the resource that is attractive to these people is not found in the wintertime. It is primarily fishing in the canals and around the water control structures and then in the late spring we would have crawfishing.

We have about 10,000 permits out at the present time for sport fishing. We estimate that probably 7,000 or 8,000 of these are used annually, so there is a tremendous use of the Refuge at this time and certainly a lot of the people that have permits now will continue using it in the winter and I think we will probably have a lot of additional people that will go into the Refuge by opening it up in the wintertime.

MR. DUPUY: Because we have relatively unlimited and readily available monies for management purposes and administration and the extra hunting opportunity and fishing opportunity it would provide, I think it is a wise thing.

MR. ENSMINGER: Well, people that are not familiar with Southwest Louisiana's coastline

don't realize that they only have about four openings into the Gulf of Mexico from the Texas line to Vermilion Bay. The Sabine channel, of course, the Calcasieu channel, the mouth of the Mermentau River and then the various bayous on Rockefeller are the only natural openings into the Gulf of Mexico, so it does restrict a strip of land probably 25 to 30 miles long that has been restricted to some good wintertime fishing, and if more people become able to have sport fishing boats and all, it will increase the recreational use there.

MR. DUPUY: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Allan.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission manages the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge under strict rules and regulations as set forth in the Deed of Donation, and

WHEREAS the Deed of Donation specifically provides that permits be

issued for sightseeing, photography and sport fishing, and

WHEREAS the Commission for several years has permitted public use of the area for these purposes during the summer months, and

WHEREAS there has been an increasing demand for quality winter-time fishing in southwest Louisiana, and

WHEREAS the canals, bayous and lakes on Rockefeller Refuge provide excellent fish populations that can be harvested without interfering with wintering waterfowl,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby open the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge for public fishing, sightseeing and photography on a year-round basis, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that specific research and other areas on

the Refuge be designated as restricted to prevent any interference with the Commission's management program.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have gotten down to Other Business on the agenda. Is there anybody else who wishes to be heard this morning?

MR. FRANCIS BRAUD: I would like to.

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Braud.

MR. BRAUD: I am Francis Braud, president of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Angelle and Members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our Louisiana Wildlife Federation Convention which comes up March 12, 13 and 14 in Lake Charles. We would like to have as many of you as possible attend our convention and we are going to be having a new format for our convention this year. We are going to give much more time for committees and much more time for discussion and we are asking that the technical people that usually meet with our committees be permitted to meet again this year with us so that they can be

able to inform our people of what we should be looking for. I think the new format is going to be much more interesting than it was. Changing the format, we don't have no speeches on Friday night, no public speakers, and none on Saturday evening like we usually have. We are devoting this time for committee meetings. This will be similar to what you would call a workshop committee meeting, with much more time and much more enthusiasm by people to be able to attend many more committees than they have been attending. Usually a fellow could attend just maybe two committees at the whole convention. Now we have it arranged so that one club could be represented in maybe four or five committees instead of just two in the time like we used to have.

Again, I would sure like to invite the Commission, the staff, the personnel and the press to attend our convention March 12, 13 and 14 in Lake Charles. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Braud. It sounds like your innovations might be attractive.

MR. BRAUD: Thank you.

request that the technical people of our Commission be allowed to meet with your people and what-have-you, like I told you earlier, permission has been granted, so you can get together with them and work out the details.

MR. BRAUD: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am going to set the February meeting for the 23rd and 24th.

Mr. Luttrell, I believe you would like to be heard now.

MR. LUTTRELL: Yes. I have really two motions but perhaps I could make it in one.

I would like to move that our Chairman authorize the members of the Commission to attend the Second Waterfowl Symposium in St. Louis, which is February 13, 14 and 15, if they so desire.

That is in the form of a motion.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have a motion. Do I have a second?

MR. DUPUY: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Dupuy.

Any objections?

(No response)

So ordered.

MR. LUTTRELL: All right. Then I would like to move that the Chairman appoint any of the Commission members who would so desire to attend the meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, February 27 and 28 which is a meeting of the Southeastern States Game and Fish Commissioners.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, you have a motion. Is there a second?

MR. DUPUY: I will second it.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Dupuy.

Any objections?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

By this authority vested in me I hereby direct any of the directors who wish to attend these meetings to get it on with.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I would like to caution the Commission members that plan to attend either or both of these meetings to check with me so that we can make the proper reservations for

you if you wish for us to do so.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Is there any other business this morning?

I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. WILLE: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Seconded by Mr. Wille. Hearing no objection, so ordered.

> (Whereupon, at 10:40 o'clock a.m., Tuesday, January 27, 1976, the meeting was adjourned.)

Kathryn G. Chamberlin, Reporter.

